

Kyrgyzstan: Domestic Media Monitoring Report

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Coverage for 29 October – 11 November, 2012



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All articles translated from Russian, unless otherwise indicated

1. Diminishing Political Unrest?

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 30 October, 2012

Supporters of arrested deputy Sadyr Zhaparov hold rally in Issyk-Kul province.

- About 600 associates of Ata-Jurt deputy and members of the movement, demanded the immediate release of the MPs, arrested after the rally for Kumtor's nationalization on October 3, 2012

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 31 October, 2012

Deputy of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament, suspected of April 2010 looting, withdraws mandate.

- Deputy of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament, Raikan Tolgonov, suspected of looting in April 2010, withdrew his mandate. Raikan Tolgonov is not admitting his guilt, but decided to step down from his office "due to unprecedented pressure from some political opponents, using dirty methods of political competition." Investigations into the looting are still ongoing.

Prosecutor General's Office of Kyrgyzstan decides to release Kamchybek Tashiev under house arrest.

- The main oversight body filed a petition to Bishkek Pervomai district court to change the measure of restraint to the Ata-Jurt party leader. "The Prosecutor General's Office took my petition and statement of MPs who are willing to vouch for their colleague into consideration," reported Tashiev's lawyer. Relatives and associates gathered outside the court without incident.

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 1 November, 2012

"In Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, documents are falsified."

- MP Nazarali Aripov said at a session of the Jogorku Kenesh, that 'documents are falsified,' referring to a commissioned study on Kyrgyztelecom in the Corruption Control Committee. Aripov said that the commission was not discussed and that the "relevant documents on the commission's establishment have the names of committee members who did not sign them."

Parliament Vice-Speaker Talant Mamytov to spend minimum month in GKNB pre-trial detention center.

- According to Mamytov's lawyer, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of Pervomai district court, which on October 5 chose 2 months detention as a measure of restraint for the parliament member.

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 2 November, 2012

Asylbek Jeenbekov: Laws accepted by the Kyrgyz Parliament should be examined for "conflict sensitivity."

- According to Jeenbekov, the Parliament should seek to become the most accessible and transparent government authority, and promote conflict solving. "Conflicts must be solved within the Parliament walls, not at squares. The causers of emerging conflicts are, first of all, ambitious politicians."

Kyrgyzstan's Parliament 'turns into source of conflicts due to incompetence of its representatives.'

- According to a prominent human rights leader, Nurbek Toktakunov, MPs lack the ability to defend their point of view in the juridical sphere. “I can hardly wait when our opposition starts working properly. For instance, in the mining industry: If you have any materials, show them to convince the public of the rightness of your claims, but do not climb over the fence,” he said, referring to the October events.

Kyrgyz Prosecutor General's Office withdraws its petition to change measure of restraint against arrested MP.

- The decision was made, due to information released by Tashiev's lawyer to the media, specifically the alleged “attempts of the Prosecutor General's office to discredit the deputy through a forensic psychological and psychiatric examination and procedural violations when holding it.” Thus, the member of Ata-Jurt remains under arrest at the pre-trial detention center of the GKNB.

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 8 November, 2012

Kamchybek Tashiev: “I’m going to quit politics and go from Kyrgyzstan to Russia for permanent residence.”

- This was quoted in the results of forensic psychological and psychiatric examination, carried out by the Prosecutor General's Office of Kyrgyzstan. However, Tashiev and his lawyer claim this was never said, and have filed a request to make it inadmissible evidence. The report apparently indicates that Tashiev suffers from insanity, and if the report is released during sentencing, it could lead to Tashiev being sent for compulsory treatment.

2. Updates in Law and Order

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 9 November, 2012

Prisoners at Jalal-Abad detention centre cut themselves in protest of abuse.

- According to the Ombudsman office in Jalal-Abad, the prisoners kept in the detention centre said that the employees of the centre beat them viciously on November 6. In protest, they cut themselves with blades on their hands, forearms and abdomens. First aid was rendered to about 20 people. “Their lives are not in danger. I appealed to the regional prosecutor to take actions, and also sent a response act to the Regional and the Prosecutor General's Offices. Now an investigation is being held.”

Kyrgyz human rights defenders: Relatives of detention centre's prisoners who in protest cut themselves gathered near Jalal-Abad Interior Department.

- After the alleged abuses and reaction, about 20 people – the prisoners’ relatives gathered near the building of the City Department of Interior, demanding a fair investigation of the incident. Video surveillance cameras are installed in the detention centre, “[but] the equipment did not record the actions of policemen. According to the prisoners, they were forced to leave cells, were stripped to the buff, and then policemen began jeering at them. Several prisoners were brought to the promenade area, where they were severely beaten. The others were beaten right in the prison’s corridor. There are minors among victims.”

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 29 October, 2012

Parliamentary committee passes bill prohibiting Kyrgyzstan’s politicians from applying to change anyone’s measure of restraint.

- The Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs and Legality passed a bill prohibiting Kyrgyzstan’s political officials from applying to court to change anyone’s measure of restraint. According to Omurbek Tekebaev, the recent events in the country related to the arrest of some politicians, and petitions to change their measures of restraint filed by some MPs caused a negative public response. “This, of course, reduces the credibility of authorities and is considered as pressure on the courts. No one should interfere in the judicial inquiry,” he said.

Leadership of Kyrgyzstan’s security agencies replaced.

- Reportedly, Chairman of the National Security Committee, Shamil Atakhanov was relieved of his post. By decree, the head of state appointed former adviser Beyshenbay Zhunusov, to the head of the intelligence agencies.
- Beyshenbay Mambetomurovich Zhunusov was born in Naryn province on November 28, 1957. He graduated from Frunze Polytechnic Institute, and then served from 1981 to 2005 in the KGB and State National Security Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. From 2005 to 2007 he was a deputy head, and later the head of the Department of Defense and Law and Order under the Prime Minister’s Office. At the same time from December 30, 2005, he was a member-representative of the Government in the Kyrgyz National Council for Corruption Control. From February 15, 2011 he has been a deputy chief of the Strategic Analysis and Monitoring Development Department under the Kyrgyz President’s Office, and from June 5, 2012, served as Advisor to the President.

3. Issues of Health

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 10 November, 2012

High prevalence of viral infections observed in Issyk-Kul and Chui provinces, and Bishkek.

- In Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul and Chui provinces, as well as Bishkek, a high prevalence of viral infections have been observed, the State Sanitary Epidemiological Oversight Department's press service reports. According to its information, 4721 cases of infectious disease had been recorded across the republic during period of October 29 to November 4. "1409 cases have been recorded in one week; 96 percent of them viral hepatitis type A disease. The highest case rates are in Chui (260 cases) and Issyk-Kul (145) provinces, and also Bishkek (410 cases)." Acute respiratory infections and influenza cases have increased by 8.7 percent.

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 5 November, 2012

Official maternal mortality rates are higher than in neighboring countries.

- According to Deputy Minister of Health Care, Marat Kaliev, mortality "mostly depends on a woman's education level. Most women are known to go abroad to earn money, and come home at the last stages of pregnancy. Usually, such women don't undergo medical examinations and have a number of diseases, including anemia and tuberculosis."

In Kyrgyzstan, maternity wards of Osh regional hospitals have poor material and technical base.

- According to the ministry's press centre, all wards do not have enough equipment to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care. "In Jalal-Abad province the availability of equipment is relatively satisfactory. However, there is a lot of faulty medical equipment. Medical staff has poor knowledge of prevention of nosocomial infections, anti-epidemic measures and standards of sanitary code. Many health facilities are not ready to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care. They often prescribe unproven drugs."

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 2 November, 2012

"Doing business on people's health has become a normal thing in Kyrgyzstan."

- Ar-Namys MP Anvar Artykov said that mass commercialization of the health care system is going on in the country, which negatively affects the treatment of citizens. "Doctors have gone so far that they are ready to put healthy people under surgery. Medics treat people with needless and expensive pills." The government is unable to provide people with full medical service, so private medical centers are taking its place. "They have only mercenary motives that are harmful for people's health. People are often made to get tests, and waste large sums of money. I've gone through it myself, and understood that they just line their pockets on people's health," added Mr. Artykov.
- Health Care Minister of Kyrgystan, Dinara Saginbayeva, admitted the existence of such malpractice. "We all are aware of the vicious ring of the pharmaceutical business, but it's

difficult for us to catch every doctor red-handed. Public institutions can't afford the purchase of expensive equipment, and people have to go [private].”

4. Domestic Issues

24 News Agency, Private media, Articles retrieved 30 October, 2012

8 schools switched from Uzbek to Kyrgyz language teaching in Nookat district, Osh province.

- “8 schools of Nookat district, Osh province, switched from Uzbek to the Kyrgyz language teaching,” informed Nadira Narmatova (Kyrgyz nationalist, Ata-Jurt party deputy), at a session of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports. According to the MP, the switch to the Kyrgyz language was made at the request of students’ parents. “Parents pointed out that Kyrgyz language will allow their children to become deputies or officials, and work at state agencies,” she noted.

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 31 October, 2012

Member of Uzbekistan’s Islamic Movement, trained in Dagestan, Chechnya and Afghanistan, detained in Osh province, S. Kyrgyzstan.

- Reportedly, on October 27, police officers conducted an operation in Nookat district to arrest a member of the ‘extremist organization,’ a 34-year resident of one of the rural districts. According to investigative information, the detainee is a member of Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and underwent military training in Dagestan, Chechnya and Afghanistan. When detaining the resident, police found and recovered a revolver with five bullets.

24 News Agency, Private media, Article retrieved 1 November, 2012

“Frontier-Anti-Terror-2012” exercises take place in Kyrgyzstan.

- Command post exercises will be held from October 31 to November 2, reported the GKNB. The exercise’s theme is holding investigative works and anti-terror operations on detection, prevention, and suppression of international terrorist groups. The exercise will be held at fuel and energy facilities in Osh, and water management facilities in Issyk-Kul. The exercise’s purpose is identification and correction of shortcomings in the coordination of physical protection of strategic objects of the country.